

INSIDE DONALD TRUMP'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

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[For comparability and consistency, all numbers presented in the present tense used in the calculations herein are from September 2019 as that was the most recent data available from the OECD at the time of writing.]

Promises Made, Promises Broken

Donald Trump campaigned on the message that the Headline Unemployment Rate (also known as U-3) is contrived nonsense, and that the actual unemployment rate could even be as high as 42%, only to later tout the Headline Unemployment Rate as a strong sign of his beautiful economy. Mr. Trump stated that the Headline Unemployment Rate is fake no fewer than 19 times during the period of 2012-2016.^{1 2} Obviously when you become the most powerful elected official in the world, you're going to use your influence to pushback against something you've relentlessly attacked the previous five years, right? His campaign messaging had led many to hope that he would lead the charge toward ending the Headline Unemployment Rate scam, but that obviously hasn't happened.

We'll get back to Donald's ownership of the Headline Unemployment Rate, but first let's delve into understanding exactly what the Headline Unemployment Rate is and what it measures.

Diagram of a Scam

Webster's defines "unemployed" as "not engaged in a gainful occupation."³

Webster's defines "the unemployed" as "people who have no jobs."⁴

Webster's defines "unemployment" as "the state of being unemployed : involuntary idleness of workers" and the "the rate of such unemployment." ⁵

Webster's defines "involuntary" as "done contrary to or without choice." ⁶

The Headline Unemployment Rate is based on a telephone sample survey known as the Current Population Survey that is performed by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The Headline Unemployment Rate is then constructed by the BLS based on their own strange interpretation of the survey results. The metric used by the BLS for whether people are considered unemployed is not whether they are unemployed, but instead whether the BLS says they are unemployed. The BLS believes they have the power to change the meaning of words and their definition of unemployed consists of several pages of cheap parlor tricks and outright lies which they then attempt to summarize as "people who are jobless, actively seeking work, and available to take a job." ^{7 8}

In reality, the Headline "Unemployment Rate" has nothing to do with the rate of unemployment. If everyone it counts as unemployed gave up looking for a job tomorrow due to the futility of the situation, then the Headline Unemployment Rate would drop to 0% after four weeks. Yes, that's right, 0%. Thus, the worse things get, the better it looks. If everyone with a job were to then have their hours cut to one hour a week, the Headline Unemployment Rate would remain at 0%. Thus, there could be only one person working and only one hour a week and the Headline Unemployment Rate would be... you guessed it... 0%. Cue the mental image of King Donald working one hour a week signing executive orders before adjourning to his afternoon robot massage.

In summary, the Headline Unemployment Rate arbitrarily only counts those who have looked for a job within the last four weeks as unemployed and counts anyone working as little as one hour a week as employed. Additionally, being jobless, available for work, and searching for and reading job postings is alone not enough to qualify for the BLS's definition of unemployed.

The number sometimes called the "Real Unemployment Rate" (also known as U-6) isn't much better. Instead of kicking out all the jobless who haven't looked for a job within the last four weeks, it includes some of those who haven't looked within four weeks, but have looked within the last year (a requirement of the BLS as part of their official "discouraged workers" classification and broader "marginally attached" classification). After not having looked for a job within the last year, a person is automatically removed from the discouraged workers category and typically arbitrarily deemed to not want a job, as if having not looked for a job in over a year would somehow indicate they are less discouraged than those who had. The "Real Unemployment Rate" also purportedly includes people who are working part-time, but want full-time work.

The whole purpose of the "Real Unemployment Rate" is to provide cover for the Headline Unemployment Rate by saying, "oh you don't like the Headline Unemployment Rate, well take a look at the 'Real Unemployment Rate.' See how fair and reasonable we're capable of being?" It is a completely meaningless composite given the fact that it still kicks out tons of actually fully jobless people who want jobs.

According to the Headline Unemployment Rate, on day 28 of not job searching people can still be considered unemployed, but on day 29 they no longer exist. According to "The Real Unemployment Rate," on day 365 of not job searching they can still be included in the tally, but on day 366 they no longer exist. Both rates disregard many years of accumulated actual discouraged workers. So where do they all go when kicked out of both rates? They go where everyone else the BLS deems to not be in the labor force goes: BLS Table A-38, where most of them are deemed to not want a job now or ever.⁹ However, the Census Bureau does not ask every jobless person surveyed whether they want a job and neither the Census Bureau nor the BLS even track the percentage or aggregate number of those polled that are asked whether they want a job and thus literally have zero data to support their conclusions (see Appendix, Tab 1). Further, without this information, the BLS does not even have the data to calculate an actual unemployment rate based on the actual meaning of the word unemployment.

More generally, instead of asking a jobless person whether they want a job and making that the metric for whether they are considered in the labor force and unemployed, the Census Bureau asks other questions, ranging from completely unrelated to vaguely related, which the BLS pretends to believe are proxies for whether someone wants a job.^{10 11} "Do you want a job" should simply always be the next question asked regarding employment if the respondent indicated that they currently don't have a job. The fact that it isn't always the next question asked tells you everything you need to know with regards to the Census Bureau/BLS's motive. Imagine if the folks at the BLS were given the BLS treatment. "Hey BLS guy, we've got a full menu of food to choose from, do you want a hamburger?" "No? Okay, I guess BLS guy doesn't want to eat." "Hey BLS guy, we've got a full menu of drinks to choose from, do you want a soda?" "No? Okay, I guess BLS guy doesn't want anything to drink."

Further, the spectrum of possible jobs in the US is wide and includes part-time jobs and work from home jobs, thus making virtually everyone who currently wants work actually available for work regardless of whether the BLS wants to accept that fact. Only the severely disabled and other very small groups could legitimately be excluded from being considered available for work among the jobless who want work.

The Headline Unemployment Rate calculates that there are approximately 5.47 million unemployed people (5,205,000 age 16-64 and 260,000 over age 65) and the “Real Unemployment Rate” includes approximately 10.76 million people total in its tally, but as already proven, neither is based in reality.¹² By not asking every jobless person surveyed the “do you want a job” question and not having the metric for whether a jobless person is unemployed be whether they say they want a job, both the numerators and denominators that go into calculating the Headline Unemployment Rate and “Real Unemployment Rate” are not remotely accurate. We can do far better.

A Working Age Employment Rate Based on Domestically Produced Numbers

The working age virtually all over the developed world is generally considered age 15-64, and we will seek herein to construct a working age employment rate that can be estimated on a monthly basis.

The BLS numbers are reported from the Civilian Non-institutionalized Population, so the Working Age Population statistic chosen to be used here (210,545,701) is also from the Civilian

Non-institutionalized Population (see Appendix, Tab 2).¹³ It is worth noting here, however, that the full Resident Working Age Population of the US is 214,282,843 (see Appendix, Tab 3).¹⁴

There is one small segment of the working age population that the US government is very secretive about: the number of 15 year olds employed. It is a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of total working age employment, but an estimate can be calculated based on the historic data from 1979 and it's more accurate to include it than not. The estimate used herein for employed 15 year olds is 719,014 (see Appendix, Tab 4). However, the number is probably even lower as the rate of 16-19 year olds employed has dropped significantly in recent years, so it stands to reason the same has happened to 15 year olds. The estimate used for a later calculation herein for how many 15 year olds the BLS would consider as unemployed based on historic data from 1979 is 131,016 (see Appendix, Tab 5).^{15 16 17} There is the temptation to think this number is likely higher because the number of 15 year olds employed has likely decreased in recent years, but remember, the number the BLS considers unemployed has nothing to do with the number who are actually unemployed and legitimately want work, so the current number of 15 year olds the BLS would consider unemployed could be higher than 131,016 or could be lower. Again, the number of 15 years olds employed is just a drop in the bucket in overall working age employment, and the number of 15 year olds the BLS would consider to be unemployed is just a drop in the bucket in overall working age BLS unemployment, and the historic data based estimates for the number of 15 year olds employed and the number of 15 year olds the BLS would consider to be unemployed are essentially just placeholders for secreted numbers and are based on the available data.

Using the employment numbers provided by the BLS, working age population numbers from the Census Bureau, and the employment estimation for 15 year olds, we can construct a working age employment rate:

158,478,000 Employed civilians 16 and over + 719,014 Estimated employed 15 year olds
- 10,544,000 Employed people 65 and older = 148,653,014 Employed working age people

148,653,014 Employed working age people
210,545,701 Working age population

= 70.6% Employment Rate (for working age people; domestically computed)

If we add our estimate for how many 15 year olds the BLS would consider as unemployed to the number of 16-64 year olds the Headline Unemployment Rate considers unemployed, we get 5.34 million. The employment rate for the US is about 70.6%, and the working age population for the US is 210.55 million, which means there are about 61.9 million jobless working age people. In a species that typically needs a sense of purpose, in a country where both husband and wife typically have to work just to get by, and in a national culture that demonizes the jobless as lazy, the idea that out of 61.9 million jobless working age US Americans only 1/11th of them want employment and are legitimately unemployed should be so absurd an idea to anyone that it's not even worth further addressing, but if this is going to be the definitive debunking of the Headline Unemployment Rate, then we'll have to further meticulously expose it.

OECD Quarterly Employment Rate Provides Benchmark Comparables

A third readily available measure of evaluating unemployment is the OECD's Employment Rate which is fact based as opposed to U-3 and U-6 which are opinion based (to put it nicely). It is

published quarterly. The OECD's Employment Rate gives the total percentage of working age people (15-64) employed in a country's population working at least one hour a week. For a fact based understanding of the minimum percentage of how many people in a population are actually legitimately unemployed, we can simply look to the OECD's highest Employment Rate for guidance. Here, we can see that Iceland has 82.7% employment for working age people while the US only has 71.5%. We thus know that at least 82.7% of the working age population wants to work, so that is the minimum of what full employment looks like. The working age population used by OECD for their US Employment Rate calculation is 206,230,365. The 11.2% employment rate difference between Iceland and the US means that there are likely at least 23.09 million jobless US Americans that want to work and are legitimately unemployed, not the 5.47 million the US government claims with their Headline Unemployment Rate. And it being as low as 23.09 million is presuming that: 1) Iceland is truly at full employment and 2) there aren't also jobless US Americans age 65 and over that want jobs. Iceland was even at 85.7% employment for Q3 2018.^{18 19} The argument can effortlessly be made that the Q3 2018 Iceland Employment Rate is even better able to illuminate the minimum percentage of a working age population that wants employment simply by the fact that it is larger and the amount of jobs available was better able to swallow up those who indeed want employment, in which case there are at least 29.28 million jobless working age US Americans that want to work and are legitimately unemployed.

For Q3 2019, the top five highest Employment Rates in the OECD are: Iceland 82.7%, Switzerland 80.5%, Netherlands 78.2%, Japan 77.9%, and New Zealand 77.4%.

The problem in the US is that its current system can only create a maximum possible amount of work for working age people equivalent to 73.9% of the working age population:

158,478,000 Employed civilians 16 and over + 719,014 Estimated employed 15 year olds
+ 7,024,000 Open jobs - 10,544,000 Employed people 65 and older = 155,677,014 Maximum
number of working age people the US can currently create work for ²⁰

155,677,014 Maximum number of working age people the US can currently create work for
210,545,701 Working age population

= 73.9% Maximum Possible Working Age Employment Providing Rate (maximum possible as it
supposes all open jobs would go to working age people (15-64) who weren't transferring from
other jobs or adding a job to their workload)

Even though our domestically provided numbers computed Maximum Working Age
Employment Providing Rate and the OECD computed Employment Rate use slightly differently
constructed working age populations as their denominators, because the former used a larger
working age population, we can still take the raw number for how much work the US can
currently provide to the working age population and compare it to the raw number for the
minimum of how much work it would have to provide to the working age population in order to
be able to attain full working age employment as illuminated by the OECD's highest
Employment Rate in order to find the minimum amount of new jobs the US would have to create
in order to attain full employment. The US can currently only provide work for a maximum
number of 155,677,014 working age US Americans and it would have to at minimum be able to
provide enough work for 170,552,511 US Americans in order to attain full employment
(206,230,365 x 82.7%). Only creating enough work for 155.68 million of the working age
population will never be enough work for 170.55 million of the working age population because
155.68 million is not greater than or equal to 170.55 million because that's just how math works.

The difference represents a minimum of 14.87 million more jobs you'd have to create, and private industry can't magically create a meaningful amount of new jobs, only government can do that (see the New Deal).

As calculated, the Headline Unemployment Rate is far more a measure of the number of available jobs than the number of jobless people who want work. There are about 61.9 million jobless working age US Americans. In a country with about 61.9 million jobless working age people and only about 5-7 million open jobs at any given time, only a various 5-7 million of the 61.9 million working age jobless are willing to try searching for jobs at any given time because there aren't nearly enough jobs for all of them and many open jobs will go to people who already have jobs (people transferring from other jobs or adding a job to their workload). People go in and out of testing the job market as they get a sense for the level of futility. As we saw from the OECD Employment Rates comparison, there are at least 23.09 million jobless US Americans who want jobs. When there are a minimum of 23.09 million jobless working age people who want jobs, but you can only provide enough jobs for 5-7 million of them, then the remaining 16.09 million that you cannot provide jobs for are completely without choice in the matter.

The number of available jobs will always highly influence how many people are willing to apply for jobs, not magically the other way around. In other words, demand for labor (the good that is paid for) will always determine how much is supplied. Just as an inventor that was turned down in 1000 straight sales pitches isn't likely to continue to produce more copies of his invention, a job seeker that was turned down in 1000 straight job applications isn't likely to continue to spend time applying. That's just how economics works. Yet, the backwards notion that the number of people searching for jobs should be the driver of measuring an unemployment rate is implicit in

the way the phony Headline Unemployment Rate is constructed. They are inverting reality and they know it.

They do this to keep the bank of unemployed huge in order to keep wages low. More specifically, they do this to keep the bank of unemployed huge, so workers have no bargaining power, and to keep the public naive about the true degree of unemployment, in order to keep them complacent, so they don't call for more government created jobs, so private industry doesn't have to compete on wages, in order to keep wages low. Meanwhile, our democracy pays the price because when people don't know the truth about the unemployment numbers they don't know how to vote or otherwise respond. Further, isn't it convenient that companies will automatically weed out applicants that have been unemployed for over 6 months, thus encouraging them to give up on applying, and then the BLS will toss out of the unemployment rate those who indeed give up on applying. This is what crypto-fascism looks like – a hidden bargain between the government and their 1% owners to enslave the populace. When people are 70% underpaid, they're 70% a slave. At the end of the day, they have nothing to show for their hardwork but at most meager shelter and food so they don't die. Meager shelter and food were always provided by slave-owners so their workforce wouldn't die, thus it's even fair to say these people are 100% enslaved from an economic standpoint.

Since the Bureau of Labor Statistics inception in the late 1800s, the mandate has specifically always been to exclude from counting as unemployed those who have given up searching due to a lack of jobs in order to produce a number that looks far better than reality in order to create hype and unfounded, blinded optimism as a cure for what the unemployment rate's creator, Carroll Wright, called “industrial hypochondria” (that is the policy intent that's on the historical

record).²¹ In other words, the purpose has always been to lie. This set the tone for what has since become sport to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. One well known example of this is the questionnaire redesign of 1994 which introduced new skip patterns in the questionnaire to further reduce the number of probing questions asked and further pretend certain questions are viable proxies for whether a person wants a job and/or is available for work.²² It also changed the official discouraged workers category to not include anyone who had given up looking more than a year ago.²³ This took the questionnaire from being complete garbage to being the sludge that forms on the bottom of the garbage can and eliminated large swaths of people from both the official discouraged workers category and from those deemed to want a job. The design of this change directly chronologically coincides with the development of NAFTA, and the implementation of this change directly chronologically coincides with the signing of NAFTA into law which would ultimately cost the United States over a million jobs. In short, the BLS is, and has always been, a travesty brought to you by the industrialists who today we more commonly refer to as the globalists.

For the gazillionth time, the oligarchs have proven they never really cared about actual markets, but instead only care about "free markets" meaning ones they are free to covertly manipulate to their advantage. The general degree to which that is accomplishable with just one particular information asymmetry will be intuitively obvious to most readers. Transparency on the true unemployment situation is vital to democracy. "If you give people light, they will find their own way" (Dante). The ultimate point of this paper is to shore up that single information asymmetry which is so obviously a root cause problem in our society because at the end of the day, economics swallows everything, right down to way we treat each other.

So the Headline Unemployment Rate is Clearly Phony, But Still, I Must Know, What is the Actual Unemployment Rate?

The equation for the Headline Unemployment Rate is:

$$\frac{5,465,000 \text{ People BLS considers unemployed age 16 and over}}{(158,478,000 \text{ Civilians employed age 16 and over} + 5,465,000 \text{ People BLS considers unemployed age 16 and over})} = 3.33\%$$

By using the data we have gathered thus far, along with the actual definition of the word unemployment, which is the most restrictive definition among the definitions of the related words, we can estimate an Actual Unemployment Rate.

We will calculate both a lower end estimate for an Actual Unemployment Rate and a higher end estimate for an Actual Unemployment Rate.

A lower end estimate:

$$\frac{(23,097,800 \text{ Low end comparable based estimate for unemployed age 15-64} + 260,000 \text{ People the government considers unemployed age 65 and over})}{(158,478,000 \text{ Civilians employed age 16 and over} + 719,014 \text{ Historic data based estimate for 15 year olds employed} + 23,097,800 \text{ Low end comparable based estimate for unemployed age 15-64} + 260,000 \text{ People the government considers unemployed age 65 and over})} = 12.79\%$$

A higher end estimate:

(29,284,711 High end comparable based estimate for unemployed age 15-64

+260,000 People the government considers unemployed age 65 and over)

(158,478,000 Civilians employed age 16 and over

+719,014 Historic data based estimate for 15 year olds employed

+29,284,711 High end comparable based estimate for unemployed age 15-64

+260,000 People the government considers unemployed age 65 and over)

=15.65%

The lower end estimate presumes Iceland was indeed at full employment in Q3 2019 and the higher end estimate presumes Iceland was indeed at full employment in Q3 2018. It is unlikely that Iceland achieved actual full employment at either time, thus making the estimated Actual Unemployment Rates conservative within themselves. Further, the estimated Actual Unemployment Rates should be seen as further conservative within themselves as the numbers they use for estimating the number of unemployed between age 15-64 come from a slightly smaller US working age population than is used by the BLS. Further, neither estimate includes any additional people over age 65 that there likely are whom are jobless and want a job but are not considered unemployed by the BLS, thus making the estimated Actual Unemployment Rates further conservative within themselves. The domestically computed Employment Rate and the Maximum Possible Working Age Employment Providing Rate remain the most direct measures available which can then be compared to the highest OECD Employment Rate from that quarter as a benchmark. We should shoot for at least 80% on the Employment Rate and at least 85% on the Maximum Possible Working Age Employment Providing Rate, or else the biggest fairy tale kids are told growing up will continue to be the one about hard work equaling success, and young adults will continue to be broadsided by the US American Nightmare where approximately half of the population is in poverty, and the majority of the US American people

will continue to be faced with a high cost of living and virtually no discretionary income because of an obsession with giving all of the money to billionaires which no one has ever been able to come up with a defensible economic argument for.^{24 25 26}

So there you have it, a thorough quantitative and qualitative analysis was unable to detect any relationship whatsoever between the Headline Unemployment Rate and the rate of unemployment.

Defining whether someone is unemployed as whether they've recently looked for a job is a flat out lie and that lie is the basis for the Headline Unemployment Rate, thus making the Headline Unemployment Rate a flat out lie. And anytime a media outlet uses the Headline Unemployment Rate to claim unemployment is low, when it's demonstrably not, they are spreading lies AKA fake news. The claim that US unemployment has ever been anything even remotely close to low in the last 10 years is as egregious as they come and flies in the face of math, economics, and the English language.

Until the four week time limit is eliminated, and until the "do you want a job" question is required to be asked and made the metric for whether a jobless person is considered unemployed, the Employment Rate and the Maximum Possible Working Age Employment Providing Rate are the best measures we have for understanding the unemployment situation and each rate can be calculated on a monthly basis from the numbers published by the BLS, the Census Bureau, and an estimate for 15 year old employment.

As Promised, Back to Donald's Ownership of the Headline Unemployment Rate

Now, back to our little friend Trump and his ownership of the Headline Unemployment Rate.

No one has been more braggadocious about it. No one has so boisterously pretended everything is great despite tens of millions of people suffering from the lack of jobs. The self-proclaimed “King of Debt,” who once endorsed the idea that he is the “King of Israel,” may as well come out and say he’s the “King of the Phony Unemployment Rate.”^{27 28} At least he’d be accurate for once. Before Trump, it was Barack Obama's phony unemployment rate, George W. Bush's phony unemployment rate, and Bill Clinton's phony unemployment rate, but today it's Donald Trump's phony unemployment rate and he has to own it for what it is.

And if someone else wins the presidency, then it will be that person’s phony unemployment rate unless their administration leads the charge to do the following:

1) A full house cleaning of the corrupt BLS’s management and middle management. Fire every one of them. Get rid of the four week time limit and make the metric for whether someone is unemployed be whether they are jobless and say they want a job which means making the Census Bureau ask “do you want a job” which even in itself is vague and not good enough to elicit accurate data and a no response requires the further probing questions of “would you want a job if it paid a living wage,” “would you want a job if it were in your field of training,” “would you want a job if it were part-time,” and “would you want a job if you could work remotely” to truthfully find out whether a person wants a job. (Given that the four week time limit, not having the metric for whether a jobless person is unemployed be whether they say they want a job, and not asking the “do you want a job” question have long been the crux of the scam, the current BLS cannot be trusted to accurately report how many people not working want employment and

are logically definable as unemployed. They have an established history of twisting themselves into knots in order to minimize the number reported as unemployed. Their problem is one that is culturally endemic on the organization level.)

and/or

2) Passing the Green New Deal to actually bring into existence the jobs for people to apply to.

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- ²³ Bregger, John E. and Steven E. Haugen. 1995. "BLS Introduces New Range of Alternative Unemployment Measures." Monthly Labor Review. October:19-26. Retrieved February 12, 2020 (<https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1995/10/art3full.pdf>)

²⁴ Ross, Martha and Nicole Bateman. 2019. Meet the Low-Wage Workforce. Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings. Washington D.C. Retrieved March 6, 2020
(https://web.archive.org/web/20200220222603/https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/201911_Brookings-Metro_low-wage-workforce_Ross-Bateman.pdf)

²⁵ Buchheit, Paul. 2017. "Yes, Half of Americans Are in or Near Poverty: Here's More Evidence." Common Dreams. Retrieved March 6, 2020
(<https://web.archive.org/web/20200107214014/https://www.commondreams.org/views/2017/10/16/yes-half-americans-are-or-near-poverty-heres-more-evidence>)

²⁶ Garcia, Adrian. 2019. "Survey: Most Americans Wouldn't Cover a \$1K Emergency with Savings." Bankrate. Retrieved March 6, 2020
(<https://web.archive.org/web/20200304092730/https://www.bankrate.com/banking/savings/financial-security-january-2019/>)

²⁷ Savransky, Rebecca. 2016. "Trump: 'I'm the King of Debt'." The Hill. Retrieved February 8, 2020
(<https://web.archive.org/web/20180928072722/https://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/presidential-races/278816-trump-im-the-king-of-debt>)

²⁸ Levin, Bess. 2019. "Trump Declares Himself 'King of Israel,' the 'Second Coming of God'." Vanity Fair. Retrieved February 8, 2020
(<https://web.archive.org/web/20190902163809/https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2019/08/donald-trump-king-of-israel>)

Appendix to
“Inside Donald Trump’s Unemployment Rate”

<u>Tab</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Freedom of Information Act Response from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to R. Carmichael
2	US Civilian Non-institutionalized Working Age Population
3	US Full Residential Working Age Population
4	Historic Data Based Estimation of the Secret Number of 15 Year Olds Employed in the United States in September 2019 as Placeholder
5	Historic Data Based Estimation of the Secret Number of 15 Year Olds That Would be Considered Unemployed by BLS in September 2019 as Placeholder

Tab 1



JAN 14 2020

Mr. Ryan Carmichael
145 Corte Madera Town Center #165
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Dear Mr. Carmichael,

As the Disclosure Officer for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), I am responding to your December 13, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (FOIA ID No. F886539). Your request, submitted through mail, was received in the BLS Disclosure Office on December 19, 2019.

You requested, "documents with regards to the second row of the Bureau of Labor Statistics October 2019 A-38 (the row named 'do not want a job now') showing what percentage of those polled that were deemed to 'not want a job now' were asked if they want a job (and documents showing aggregate numbers that enable the percentage calculation)."

The Employment and Earnings table A-38 is produced from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS survey collects data on the employment status of the U.S. population. Some people in the survey are not asked specifically if they want a job because we can infer their desire for work from their responses to other survey questions (<https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm#wantajob>). For example, some people have already indicated in the survey that they are waiting for a job to begin, so we include them among those who want a job without specifically asking them the question. People waiting to start a new job must have actively looked for a job within the last 4 weeks in order to be counted as unemployed. Otherwise, they are classified as not in the labor force.

Another example would be people we term passive job seekers that are not counted among the unemployed (<https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm#unemployed>). The unemployed include people who are on temporary layoff and those who have actively searched for work in the last 4 weeks. Passive job search methods are those that could not result in a job offer unless additional steps were taken, like simply looking at job postings without taking further action, or taking a training course. Someone who reported that they are taking a class (and doing nothing active to look for work) would not be counted among the unemployed, but has indicated they want a job by reporting the (passive) job search activity. More information about the questions we use to identify the unemployed can be found at https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_htgm.htm#unemployed.

The survey instrument may route people who volunteer that they are retired, have a disability, or are unable to work to a shorter set of questions about their employment status. Some of these people may not receive the main "want a job" question, but are included among those who do not

Mr. Carmichael--2

want a job. Some people who report that they receive payments or profits from the business but do not actually work in the business may be routed around this question and included among those who do not want a job. Also some people who report being unpaid family workers (but who didn't work enough hours to be counted as employed) may be routed around this question and included among those who do not want a job.

In response to your request, we do not have any data that break down the components of the table that you requested. The survey estimates are generated from microdata recodes that combine the responses of many different questions and criteria to define the labor force concepts in our table. We do not have any tabulations that include the percentages you requested.

Should you be interested in other employment data, you may contact the CPS program directly at CPSInfo@bls.gov or by calling 202-691-6378.

I believe I have been responsive to your request. If you need further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the BLS FOIA Disclosure Office on 202-691-7628 or by email at BLSFOIAServiceCenter@bls.gov. Alternatively, you may wish to contact the DOL FOIA Public Liaison, Thomas Hicks, on 202-693-5427 or by email at Hicks.Thomas@dol.gov.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, under the FOIA, you have the right to appeal this response to the Solicitor of Labor. Your appeal must be received by the Solicitor of Labor within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Address your appeal to the following office: Solicitor of Labor, Division of Management and Administrative Legal Services, Room N-2420, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. Your appeal may also be sent by email to FOIAAppeal@dol.gov. Appeals submitted to any other address will not be accepted. Your appeal must state in writing the grounds for the appeal. It should also include a copy of the original request, the response to your request, and any supporting statement or arguments. The appeal letter, the envelope, and the email subject line, should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,



NANCY RUIZ DE GAMBOA
Associate Commissioner
for Administration

Tab 2

US Civilian Non-institutionalized Working Age Population

September 2019

<u>Age</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Population</u>
15	4,153,201	40	4,093,223
16	4,132,171	41	3,962,243
17	4,131,538	42	3,944,425
18	4,186,259	43	3,801,761
19	4,241,493	44	3,888,619
20	4,168,100	45	3,814,535
21	4,169,377	46	3,814,351
22	4,168,959	47	3,971,658
23	4,214,123	48	4,194,861
24	4,319,927	49	4,293,645
25	4,398,519	50	4,098,881
26	4,495,812	51	3,966,923
27	4,602,250	52	3,965,378
28	4,704,033	53	4,005,625
29	4,719,068	54	4,229,395
30	4,537,031	55	4,348,923
31	4,435,886	56	4,335,956
32	4,330,197	57	4,320,316
33	4,342,964	58	4,344,540
34	4,377,297	59	4,400,069
35	4,266,447	60	4,267,890
36	4,272,794	61	4,180,701
37	4,296,378	62	4,151,434
38	4,229,284	63	4,004,297
39	4,316,506	64	3,936,438

Total:
210,545,701

Source: US Census Bureau. "National Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019, Monthly Postcensal Noninstitutionalized Civilian Population - 7/1/2019 to 12/1/2019." US Census Bureau. Retrieved February 12, 2020 (https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-national-detail.html#par_textimage_1537638156)

Tab 3

US Full Residential Working Age Population
September 2019

<u>Age</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Population</u>
15	4,176,524	40	4,172,383
16	4,164,696	41	4,035,931
17	4,171,029	42	4,015,074
18	4,257,598	43	3,869,540
19	4,347,642	44	3,955,259
20	4,296,542	45	3,879,619
21	4,308,169	46	3,878,459
22	4,313,757	47	4,032,429
23	4,358,542	48	4,251,622
24	4,460,818	49	4,347,210
25	4,535,936	50	4,147,987
26	4,627,395	51	4,011,975
27	4,733,598	52	4,007,384
28	4,831,712	53	4,044,115
29	4,844,562	54	4,265,059
30	4,658,167	55	4,381,613
31	4,551,470	56	4,365,672
32	4,440,417	57	4,348,336
33	4,445,972	58	4,370,495
34	4,475,061	59	4,424,490
35	4,359,569	60	4,291,922
36	4,362,906	61	4,203,805
37	4,385,351	62	4,174,954
38	4,316,800	63	4,027,035
39	4,401,397	64	3,954,845

Total:
214,282,843

Source: US Census Bureau. "National Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019, Monthly Postcensal Resident Population - 7/1/2019 to 12/1/2019." US Census Bureau. Retrieved February 12, 2020 (https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-national-detail.html#par_textimage_1537638156)

Tab 4

Historic Data Based Estimation of the Secret Number of 15 Year Olds Employed in the United States in September 2019 as Placeholder

(Based on Historic Data of the Number of 14-15 Year Olds Employed in 1979)

4,027,490 live births in 1964 ¹

3,760,358 live births in 1965 ¹

$4,027,490 + 3,760,358 = 7,787,848$ total live births between 1964-1965

$4,027,490 \div 7,787,848 = 51.72\%$ approximate percentage of the 14-15 year old population in 1979 that were 15 year olds

7,925,000 population of 14-15 year olds by the end of 1979 ²

$7,925,000 \times 51.72\% = 4,098,810$ approximate population of 15 year olds by the end of 1979

1,372,000 number of 14-15 year olds employed in 1979 ²

$1,372,000 \times 51.72\% = 709,598$ estimated number of 15 year olds employed in 1979

4,153,201 population of 15 year olds in September 2019 ³

$709,598 / 4,098,810 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} / 4,153,201$

$709,598 \times 4,153,201 = 2,947,103,123,198$ cross multiplication output

$2,947,103,123,198 \div 4,098,810 = \mathbf{719,014}$ estimated number of employed 15 year olds in **2019**

¹ US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare - Public Health Services - National Center for Health Statistics. 1967. *Vital Statistics of the United States 1965, Volume I - Natality*. Retrieved February 12, 2020 (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsus/nat65_1.pdf) (information on Table 1-23)

² Westcott, Diane N. "The Youngest Workers: 14- and 15-Year-Olds." *Monthly Labor Review* February 1981: pages 65-69. Retrieved January 28, 2020 (<https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1981/02/art7full.pdf>)

³ US Census Bureau. "National Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019, Monthly Postcensal Noninstitutionalized Civilian Population - 7/1/2019 to 12/1/2019." US Census Bureau. Retrieved February 12, 2020 (https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-national-detail.html#par_textimage_1537638156)

Tab 5

Historic Data Based Estimation of the Secret Number of 15 Year Olds That Would be Considered Unemployed by BLS in September 2019 as Placeholder

(Based on Historic Data of the Number of 14-15 Year Olds That Would be Considered Unemployed by BLS in 1979)

4,027,490 live births in 1964 ¹

3,760,358 live births in 1965 ¹

$4,027,490 + 3,760,358 = 7,787,848$ total live births between 1964-1965

$4,027,490 \div 7,787,848 = 51.72\%$ approximate percentage of the 14-15 year old population in 1979 that were 15 year olds

7,925,000 population of 14-15 year olds by the end of 1979 ²

$7,925,000 \times 51.72\% = 4,098,810$ approximate population of 15 year olds by the end of 1979

250,000 number of 14-15 year olds that would be considered unemployed by BLS in 1979 ²

$250,000 \times 51.72\% = 129,300$ estimated number of 15 year olds that would be considered unemployed by BLS in 1979

4,153,201 population of 15 year olds in September 2019 ³

$129,300 / 4,098,810 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} / 4,153,201$

$129,300 \times 4,153,201 = 537,008,889,300$ cross multiplication output

$537,008,889,300 \div 4,098,810 = \mathbf{131,016}$ estimated number of 15 year olds that would be considered unemployed by BLS in September 2019

¹ US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare - Public Health Services - National Center for Health Statistics. 1967. *Vital Statistics of the United States 1965, Volume I - Natality*. Retrieved February 12, 2020 (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsus/nat65_1.pdf) (information on Table 1-23)

² Westcott, Diane N. "The Youngest Workers: 14- and 15-Year-Olds." *Monthly Labor Review* February 1981: pages 65-69. Retrieved January 28, 2020 (<https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1981/02/art7full.pdf>)

³ US Census Bureau. "National Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019, Monthly Postcensal Noninstitutionalized Civilian Population - 7/1/2019 to 12/1/2019." US Census Bureau. Retrieved February 12, 2020 (https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-national-detail.html#par_textimage_1537638156)